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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

UNITED STATES.

REQUEST FOR REPORTS ON DYSENTERY.

Medical officers, acting assistant surgeons of the Marine-Hospital Service, secretaries of State boards of health, and other sanitarians are requested to report as soon as practicable whenever dysentery is prevailing in their respective localities, giving the type of the disease, number of cases (when possible), and mortality. The information is desired for the purpose of scientific investigations which are being made on this subject.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Report of health officer of Los Angeles on the search for plague.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., July 1, 1901.

SIR: In compliance with the instructions of the board of health of this city, I herewith transmit to you the report of the inspection of Chinatown of Los Angeles, Cal.

Respectfully,

L. M. POWERS,
Health Officer.

[Inclosure.]

LOS ANGELES, CAL., June 3, 1901.

GENTLEMEN: I respectfully submit a report of investigations made of the Chinese in this city to satisfy any doubt of the nonexistence of bubonic plague.

In obedience to your instructions, I made arrangements with the leading Chinese and established a morgue in the Chinese Hospital, and from April 3 until May 10 necropsies were made of all dead Chinese (5 in number), and Dr. S. P. Black and his assistant made tests on lower animals and bacteriological examinations, without finding any evidence of bubonic plague.

We have been closely inspecting for plague since the first report in San Francisco, and have not found any suspicion of the disease existing in this city.

In these inspections we have been kindly aided by Drs. Cofer and Hastings, of the United States Marine-Hospital Service, and Coroner Holland has extended to our office all courtesies.

Respectfully,

L. M. POWERS, *Health Officer.*

BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES.

Arrival at San Francisco quarantine of the steamship China from Hongkong.

SAN FRANCISCO QUARANTINE STATION, June 25, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to report the arrival of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company Steamer *China* late on Saturday, June 22. As she arrived after boarding hours, she was not boarded until early on the morning of the 23d.

The vessel left Hongkong about May 24, and brought from that station 47 Asiatics for the crew of the transport *Kintuck*. These 47 were trans-

ferred to the *Kintuck* at Nagasaki and the *China* proceeded on her voyage. One of those transferred to the *Kintuck* developed plague and died. The *China* passed the remaining Japanese ports without detention or interference in any way.

On arrival at Honolulu all on board were well, but in view of the case that had occurred on the *Kintuck* transferred from the *China*, the vessel was held out from the dock and the Asiatic steerage compartments were fumigated with sulphur dioxide. The Asiatics for Honolulu were removed to the quarantine station.

Upon arrival here there was no sickness on board; the Asiatics, 336 Chinese and 36 Japanese, were transferred to the quarantine station, were there bathed, and their baggage disinfected by steam and formaldehyd. The steerage compartments on the *China* were washed down with strong carbolic solution, and the vessel was allowed to proceed to her dock. It was not considered necessary, in view of the fact that no further cases of plague occurred on the vessel, to redisinfect the Asiatic compartments with sulphur dioxide, as that had been done by Passed Assistant Surgeon Cofer at Honolulu.

The Asiatic passengers were released from the quarantine station on the evening of the 23d.

Respectfully,

D. A. CARMICHAEL,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Further concerning the steamship Carlisle City.

SAN DIEGO, CAL., June 26, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith copy of ship's log, in Captain Patterson's own handwriting.

I feel almost certain that the cases of plague were due to infected rats, as dead rats were noticed, I find, by questioning some of the stevedores as far back as her last trip; and also I am told by different members of the European crew, dead rats were noticed just prior to the first case of illness. Cofer was suspicious of the vessel at Honolulu, on account of the first death which the captain had diagnosed as jaundice; he did not permit her to come close to dock; says he kept her shored off 8 feet, with rat funnels on all lines; he also disinfected all freight, and in his letter cautioned me to look the ship over most carefully, advising me to fumigate for rats.

Eight days to-day since last case of illness; 5 days since last death. This is written at 6.30 a. m. All appear well at this writing, but temperatures will not be taken until about 9 a. m., when Hastings arrives, so he can be present at physical examinations. The work of disinfection and cleansing as far as it has gone (that is, all above the cargo holds including hold No. 1 from which Honolulu freight was taken) could hardly be better done.

* * * * *

On account of lack of facilities, narrow waters, and insufficient land, have been greatly hampered, the work and responsibilities more than doubled.

Respectfully,

W. W. MCKAY,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Copy from ship's log.

May 16, British steamship *Carlisle City*, sailed, Hongkong. May 29, sailed from Yokohama. June 6, sailor's cook took ill. June 9, sailor died, believed to be from jaundice. June 11, arrived, Honolulu, 6 a. m. June 13, sailed, Honolulu, 6 p. m.,